

Appl. No. 09/913,349
Amendment dated October 8, 2003
Reply to Office action of July 25, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 are pending in this application. Claims 1 through 6 are amended herein. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in claim 2 as originally filed. Claims 7 through 11 are withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Arima, JP-11111250. The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended.

Claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

"said support member includes a temperature detector."

Arima is submitted to neither teach, disclose, nor suggest a support member including a temperature detector. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 through 6 depend from claim 1 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 through 6 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 4 is also earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kozu et al., US 6,451,474. The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended.

Kozu is submitted to neither teach, disclose, nor suggest a support member including a temperature detector, as recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 through 6 depend from claim 1 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 through 6 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 6 is also earnestly solicited.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Shibata

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et al., US 6,358,644. The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended.

Shibata is submitted to neither teach, disclose, nor suggest a support member including a temperature detector, as recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 through 6 depend from claim 1 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 through 6 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is also earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 6 was been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over either Arima or Shibata. The rejection is traversed. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and adds further distinguishing elements. Neither Arima nor Shibata teach, disclose, or suggest a support member including a temperature detector, as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 6 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

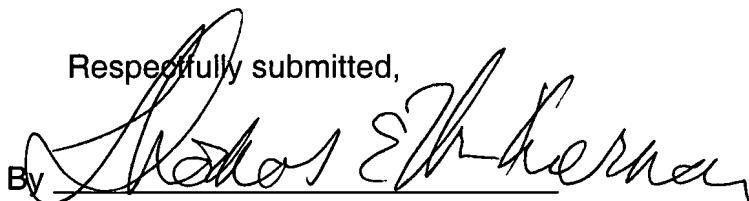
The Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2 and 5 contain allowable subject matter.

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Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all claims 1 through 6 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 1 through 6 and of this entire application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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